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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 5	3
II.	CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS	6 - 24	4
	A. Printed material	6 - 20	4
	B. Training courses, seminars and workshops	21	10
	C. Cooperation in the organization of and participation in training courses, workshops and other activities	22	10
	D. Fellowships and internships	23 - 24	10
III.	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION	25 - 61	11
	A. Activities in the field of human rights	25 - 45	11
	B. Preparations for special activities in 1993	46 - 54	17
	C. Activities of information centres and services	55 - 61	19

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CONTENTS (continued)

	Paragraphs	Page
IV. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	62 - 97	21
A. United Nations system	63 - 76	21
B. Other organizations	77 - 97	26
V. HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCES	98 - 103	30
A. Official commemorations	98 - 101	30
B. Exhibitions and other activities	102 - 103	30
VI. NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS	104	31
Annex. List of publications issued by the Centre for Human Rights as at September 1992		32

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 45/99 of 14 December 1990, the General Assembly, reaffirming that activities to improve public knowledge in the field of human rights were essential to the fulfilment of the purposes of the United Nations set out in the Charter and that carefully designed programmes of teaching, education and information were essential to the achievement of lasting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recognizing the catalytic effect of initiatives of the United Nations on national and regional public information activities, affirmed that the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights was a valuable complement to the activities of the United Nations further to promote and to protect human rights world wide.

2. The World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights was launched by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/128 of 8 December 1988, with the objectives of increasing understanding and awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms and educating the public on the international machinery available for the promotion and protection of those rights and freedoms and the efforts of the United Nations to realize them.

3. In resolution 45/99, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-seventh session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution for consideration under the item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms". The present report is submitted in accordance with that request and contains information relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information.

4. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/99, the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session examined the note by the Secretary-General on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights (E/CN.4/1991/22) and adopted resolution 1991/24, with a view to providing guidance on the aims and activities of the Campaign. 1/ At its forty-eighth session the Commission continued its consideration of the question on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1992/22) and adopted resolution 1992/38. 2/

5. In keeping with the objectives of the Campaign, the United Nations is developing its information and education programme, since information leading to awareness and knowledge of basic rights and freedoms represents an essential element of the universal implementation of the standards already set in the field of human rights. The five main areas of activity of the Campaign are: preparation and dissemination of printed information and reference materials; workshops, seminars and training courses; fellowships and internships; special human rights observances; and coverage and promotion activities.

II. CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Printed material

1. Information material

6. In its resolution 45/99, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for information materials on human rights to be carefully designed in clear and accessible form, to be tailored to regional and national requirements and circumstances with specific target audiences in mind and to be effectively disseminated in national and local languages and in sufficient volume to have the desired impact. In keeping with that directive, the Centre for Human Rights continued to develop information material which is distributed to national and regional human rights institutions, academic and research institutions, the media, non-governmental organizations and concerned individuals.

Fact Sheets

7. The Fact Sheet series consists of booklets directed at a non-specialized audience, dealing with different aspects of the United Nations activity in the field of human rights, including aspects of the international human rights machinery, or with specific human rights topics. Fact Sheets are translated into the six official languages of the United Nations and distributed world wide free of charge. Owing to the increased demand, several Fact Sheets have been reprinted. Since the last report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, Fact Sheets 12 to 18 have been issued:

Fact Sheet No. 12	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Fact Sheet No. 13	International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
Fact Sheet No. 14	Contemporary Forms of Slavery
Fact Sheet No. 15	Civil and Political Rights: The Human Rights Committee
Fact Sheet No. 16	The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Fact Sheet No. 17	The Committee against Torture
Fact Sheet No. 18	Minority Rights

8. Fact Sheets on migrant workers, religious intolerance, human rights and women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, human rights and the police, refugees and human rights, and national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights are under preparation. The complete list of Fact Sheets is contained in the annex to the present report.

Bulletin of Human Rights

9. The Bulletin of Human Rights, issued in English and French, contains articles on human rights topics by leading government and academic experts. In the course of 1991, two issues have been published. The Bulletin on special procedures and the role of non-governmental organizations contains contributions on the role and functions of the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance (A. V. d'Almeida Ribeiro); the law and its effective implementation in the protection of human rights with reference to the situation in Peru (E. Bernales Ballesteros, Special Rapporteur on the question of utilization of mercenaries); "the silent revolution" in human rights protection (F. Volio Jiménez, Special Rapporteur on human rights in Chile); non-governmental organizations and the human rights movement in Latin America (D. García Sayan, Executive Director of the Andean Commission of Jurists); the role of non-governmental organizations in human rights standard-setting (N. MacDermot, former Secretary-General of the International Commission of Jurists); the role of non-governmental organizations in the promotion and protection of human rights (C. M. Eya Nchama, Professor at the Institute for Development Studies, Geneva); the work of non-governmental organizations in the world-wide promotion and protection of human rights (N. S. Rodley, Professor in Law, University of Essex); teaching human rights in Sri Lanka (E. A. G. De Silva, Vice-President, Sri Lanka Foundation); and the problem of disappearances (T. Van Dongen, member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances).

10. The Bulletin on humanitarian and refugee law includes articles on human rights and international humanitarian law (J. Patrnogic, President of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy; H. Gros Espiell, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay and former President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; F. J. Hampson, Lecturer in Law, University of Essex; and C. Sommaruga, Secretary-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross); human rights accorded by international humanitarian law (B. Jakovljevic, Special Adviser for International Relations of the Red Cross of Yugoslavia); the protection of the human person under human rights law and humanitarian law (T. Meron, Professor of Law, New York University School of Law); refugees and human rights (G. J. L. Coles, former Senior Legal Research Officer in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees); a critical assessment of the human rights and refugee linkage (P. Nobel, Swedish Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination); the rights of refugees under international law (I. Khokhlov, Professor, Moscow State Institute of International Relations); and "fear of persecution" and the law of human rights (J. Hathaway, Associate Dean, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University of Toronto).

11. An issue of the Bulletin on the rights of the child is in the process of being printed. It contains several articles on the legal framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (P. Alston, Chairman of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; A Lopatka, President, Supreme Court); the role of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in promoting the implementation of the Convention in States parties (D. O'Donnell, former

jurist at Defence for Children International); the importance of international cooperation in the elaboration and implementation of the Convention (F. Z. Ksentini, member of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities; V. Muntarbhorn, Special Rapporteur on the sale of children; M. Santos País, Adviser, Department of Documentation and Comparative Law, Ministry of Justice of Portugal and member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child); and non-governmental organizations and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (N. Cantwell, Director of Programmes, Defence for Children International).

Newsletter

12. The Human Rights Newsletter, begun in 1988, appears quarterly in English and French. It contains, inter alia, articles on the activities of the United Nations bodies dealing with human rights, including the Centre for Human Rights; interviews with experts in the field of human rights; information on training courses, seminars workshops and other meetings organized by the United Nations; and information on the activities of non-governmental organizations dealing with human rights. Since the submission of the last report to the General Assembly, five issues of the Newsletter have been published and one is being printed.

Study Series

13. The Human Rights Study Series reproduces studies and reports prepared by special rapporteurs on important issues of human rights which have been mandated by various human rights bodies. Two additional volumes, Nos. 4 and 5, of the Study Series have been published:

(a) Promotion, Protection and Restoration of Human Rights at the National, Regional and International Levels: Status of the Individual and Contemporary International Law, by E. Daes;

(b) Rights of Persons Belonging to Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, by F. Capotorti.

There are now five issues in the Study Series, each of which is available in the six official languages (see list in the annex). A study on human rights and disability is being prepared for publication.

Ad hoc publications

14. Since the issue of the last report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, 10 new ad hoc publications have been issued:

(a) The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (English and French);

(b) Report of an International Consultation on AIDS and Human Rights, Geneva, 26-28 July 1989 (English, French and Spanish);

(c) United Nations Training Course on International Norms and Standards in the Field of Human Rights: Proceedings, Moscow, 27 November-1 December 1989 (English and French);

(d) Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: Global Compilation of National Legislation against Racial Discrimination (English);

(e) The Realization of the Right to Development: Global Consultation on the Right of Development as a Human Right, Geneva, 8-12 January 1990 (English);

(f) Political, Historical, Economic, Social and Cultural Factors contributing to Racism, Racial Discrimination and Apartheid: report of a seminar, 10-14 December 1990 (English);

(g) Manual on Human Rights Reporting. This manual has been co-produced by the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Part one contains guidelines for the initial part of the report of States parties and includes contributions from Theo van Boven, on the international system of human rights; Philip Alston, on the purposes of reporting; Cecil Bernard, on the preparation and drafting of a national report; Fausto Pocar and Cecil Bernard, on the submission of national reports to expert bodies and their follow-up; and Laurie Wiseberg, on human rights information and documentation. Part two of the manual deals with reporting requirements under six major international human rights instruments. A bibliography of selected materials on human rights reporting is also included. The manual is currently available in English;

(h) The First Twenty Years: Progress Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (English);

(i) Workshop on implementation of international human rights instruments and reporting obligations: preparation of reports to United Nations human rights treaty bodies, Moscow, 26-30 August 1991 (English).

15. A new version of the booklet Human Rights: Questions and Answers is in preparation.

16. The reports of the African workshop on international human rights standards and the administration of justice (Cairo, July 1991), of the European Conference on International Human Rights Standards (Barcelona, 13-17 January 1992) and of the training course on human rights information handling and technology (Geneva, October-November 1991) are in the process of being printed. A publication collecting the papers presented by the experts to the seminar on international human rights standards and constitutional law for specialists from South Africa, held at Geneva from 17 to 20 June 1991, is under preparation. A commentary on the Convention on the Rights of the Child is being prepared in cooperation with UNICEF. The legislative history (travaux préparatoires) of the Convention is also being prepared for publication in collaboration with Radda Barnen International, a Swedish non-governmental organizations.

Teaching materials

17. The Centre is devoting considerable efforts to the elaboration of teaching materials at all levels, in keeping with the directives of both the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights. ABC Teaching of Human Rights, issued in 1989 and available in all six official languages, is being reprinted in order to respond to an increasing number of requests from teachers' organizations, educational institutions, and international organizations.

18. In its resolution 45/99, the General Assembly urged all Member States to include in their educational curricula materials relevant to a comprehensive understanding of human rights issues, and encouraged all those responsible for training in law and its enforcement, the armed forces, medicine, diplomacy and other relevant fields to include appropriate human rights components in their programmes. Teaching and Learning about Human Rights: A Manual for Schools of social Work and the Social Work Profession was developed by the Centre in cooperation with the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Association of Schools of Social Work. The Centre for Human Rights is currently developing a manual on human rights teaching at university level in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Coordination meetings between the two organizations have been held at Geneva, Tunis and Paris and the cooperation and advice of international human rights experts has been sought. The Centre is also elaborating teaching manuals for different target groups and/or on specific human rights subjects. A manual is currently being prepared to assist Governments in the establishment and development of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights. In addition, a series of manuals directed at those involved in the administration of justice is also in preparation.

Translations

19. The Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, has been coordinating the translation and authentication of regional and local language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Centre is now in the process of reviewing the translations project with a view to increasing both the range of instruments translated and the number of language versions produced. To this end it is formulating a strategy in relation to the three instruments composing the International Bill of Human Rights, aimed at identifying the language versions that currently exist and those that remain to be produced. Non-governmental organizations are a valuable resource in this respect and their cooperation is being actively sought. The Centre will be working closely with the Department of Public Information in an effort to ensure the widespread and effective dissemination of these translated instruments.

2. Reference material

20. The reference publications of the Centre for Human rights are addressed to a more specialized audience. They are also sales publications, and are as follows:

(a) United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights: this publication, which appears every five years, is the standard United Nations reference work in the field of human rights. The last issue, covering the period from 1945 to 1988, is available in English and Spanish. The French version is in the process of being printed. As requested by the General Assembly, this publication is being updated and is scheduled to be published prior to the World Conference on Human Rights, to be held at Vienna in 1993;

(b) Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments contains the basic international instruments in the field of human rights. An updated version is being prepared and is scheduled for publication in 1992. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/116, this new version will also contain the major human rights instruments of regional organizations;

(c) Human Rights: Status of International Instruments contains detailed information including ratifications, reservations, objections and declarations in relation to the human rights instruments contained in the Compilation. An updated version of the Status of International Instruments is being prepared and is scheduled to be released in conjunction with the updated Compilation. A chart of ratifications appears every six months. The most recent was released in June 1992;

(d) The Yearbook on Human Rights contains information on international developments in the field of human rights, including activities undertaken by the United Nations and the specialized agencies and the activities of the various supervisory bodies. The Yearbook also surveys national developments in the field of human rights and includes information on Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. The volumes concerning 1980 to 1987 are currently available in English and French. The volumes for 1988 and 1989 are being printed and will be published in the course of 1992. The volume for 1990 is being finalized;

(e) Official Records of the Human Rights Committee (formerly Yearbook of the Human Rights Committee). The 1981-1982 edition of the Yearbook of the Human Rights Committee is available in English and French. The 1983-1984 edition has been issued in English and the French version is in preparation. The 1985-1986 and 1987-1988 editions are in the process of being printed;

(f) Human Rights Committee: Selected Decisions under the Optional Protocol, volume 1, 1977-1982 (second to sixteenth sessions) is available in English, French and Spanish. Volume 2, 1982-1988 (seventeenth to thirty-second sessions) is available in English; the Spanish version is being printed. The Arabic, Chinese, French and Russian versions are in preparation;

(g) A comprehensive Bibliography of United Nations documents on human rights issues, covering the 10-year period from 1980 to 1989, is being prepared in cooperation with the United Nations Library. It will contain references to reports and studies; resolutions and decisions of main United Nations organs, including those of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities; periodic reports of States parties to the various human rights treaties; selected periodicals; selected statements and communications by non-governmental organizations; and selected decisions and notes verbales from Governments.

B. Training courses, seminars and workshops

21. In its resolution 45/99, the General Assembly noted the special value, under the advisory services and technical assistance programme, of regional and national training courses and workshops, in cooperation with Governments, regional and national organizations and non-governmental organizations, in promoting practical education and awareness in the field of human rights. Such meetings have also served the aims of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, namely increasing knowledge and awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms. A list of seminars, training courses and workshops organized by the Centre may be found in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights on advisory services in the field of human rights (E/CN.4/1992/49, paras. 77-80).

C. Cooperation in the organization of and participation in training courses, workshops and other activities

22. Throughout 1991 and the first part of 1992, the Centre for Human Rights has participated in more than 150 conferences, workshops, seminars, training courses, consultations and other meetings held all over the world. Participation in these events has provided the opportunity to disseminate information on human rights issues and to explain the purposes of the World Public Information Campaign.

D. Fellowships and internships

23. The number of applications for the fellowship programme continues to increase. For the 1991 programme, the Secretary-General received 92 candidatures from 63 Governments. Forty-one were selected, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, priority being given, inter alia, to applicants from the developing countries, and to allocating a fair share of the fellowships to women. For 1992, 62 Governments proposed 116 candidates; 55 were selected, of whom 21 were women. The Centre also started cooperation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch in Vienna, where two participants spent a week.

24. In the course of 1991, more than 75 internships were offered to advanced university students, to enable them to gain first-hand knowledge of United Nations action and procedures in the field of human rights through active participation in the work of the Centre for Human Rights, under the direct supervision of professional staff of the Centre. Internships do not entail financial commitments of any kind by the Centre or the United Nations. The restructuring of the internship programme undertaken last year has permitted an improvement in the present system of responsibility for interns and the content of the internship programme.

III. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

A. Activities in the field of human rights

25. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/99, the Department of Public Information has continued to carry out its multimedia activities in the field of human rights and to fulfil its role in coordinating system-wide public information activities within the context of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights. It endeavours to ensure the effective coverage of human rights activities, together with world-wide distribution of relevant information materials to specific audiences directly and through the 67 United Nations information centres and services.

26. In keeping with the main objective of the World Campaign, namely, to increase understanding and awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms, international human rights machinery and United Nations efforts to promote and protect human rights, the Department's activities include producing printed material, films, radio and television programmes, photographs and exhibits; providing press coverage including press conferences; media liaison; answering public inquiries; providing services for visitors; organizing special events and activities; collaboration with non-governmental organizations; utilization of the resources of the United Nations information centres and services; and inter-agency coproductions and coordination.

27. It should be noted that most of these activities are not under the Department's programme budget thematic heading "Human rights" but are funded under other sections of the budget. The Department also continues to have mandates in related areas such as economic, social and cultural rights and the rights of specific groups, as well as for other major issues, including activities against apartheid, the question of Palestine, self-determination, decolonization and the advancement of women. Some of these activities are listed under specific thematic headings in the programme budget and are regularly reported to the General Assembly and to other intergovernmental bodies under each specific mandate. However, reference will be made to some of them within the framework of related activities to promote United Nations action for human rights.

28. To commemorate Human Rights Day at Headquarters on 10 December, the Department organizes special events annually:

(a) In 1990, in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights, a special panel discussion was held on the newly adopted International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The Department also produced an exhibit on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(b) For Human Rights Day in 1991, a number of special events were organized at Headquarters: a Human Rights Day programme, sponsored by the Committee on the Security and Independence of the International Civil Service, and the opening of the exhibition "Auschwitz: A Crime against Humanity", were both held on 10 December; a special panel discussion on the occasion of Human Rights Day and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of International Covenants on Human Rights and the premier screening of New Horizons for Human Rights, a new film produced by the Department of Public Information, were both held on 12 December; the commemoration meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the anniversary of the adoption of the Covenants was held on 16 December;

(c) Plans are under way for a special series of events on 10 December 1992 to launch the International Year for the World's Indigenous People (1993).

29. In 1991 and 1992, the Department completed a number of reprints or new official language issues of the following human rights material:

(a) An illustrated publication on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (DPI/1101), in the six official languages;

(b) A publication on the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (DPI/1055), in the six official languages;

(c) Principles of Medical Ethics (DPI/801), in Arabic and Russian;

(d) Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace (DPI/844), in Arabic, Chinese and French;

(e) Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals Who are not Nationals of the Country in which They Live (DPI/894), in Russian;

(f) Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children, with Special Reference to Foster Placement and Adoption Nationally and Internationally (DPI/914), in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish;

(g) Universal Declaration of Human Rights poster (DPI/936), in Spanish;

(h) Human Rights and Social and Economic Development: A Selection of Publications (DPI/1028), in French and Spanish;

(i) Human Rights: Questions and Answers was completed in Arabic, Russian and Chinese in addition to the other official languages.

30. Numerous feature articles dealing with human rights have been issued under the United Nations Focus series in English, French, and Spanish, since the last report to the General Assembly. Among them are:

(a) Searching for the pernicious roots of racism (DPI/1150);

(b) Human rights covenants (DPI/1153);

(c) Specialists who monitor human rights (DPI/1155);

(d) The trade of shame: the sale of children (DPI/1156);

(e) The limits of sovereignty (DPI/1178);

(f) Traditional practices (affecting the health of women and children) (DPI/1188);

(g) Challenges to human rights at the close of the twentieth century (DPI/1202);

(h) Human rights and the family (DPI/1203);

(i) ONUSAL (DPI/1209).

31. In the same United Nations Focus series, under the thematic heading "Women", the Department has also published several feature articles, in English, French and Spanish, on human rights issues, including:

(a) Women: vulnerable victims of AIDS (DPI/996 and Rev.1);

(b) Ending discrimination: a fundamental right (DPI/1008);

(c) The quest for women's rights (DPI/1144);

(d) List of States parties (DPI/1145);

(e) CEDAW Factsheet (DPI/1176);

(f) Violence against women (DPI/1174 and Rev.1).

The Department has also produced a brochure entitled "End discrimination against women" (DPI/955), a poster on Women: Equality by the Year 2000 (DPI/1136), a book entitled Women: Challenges to the Year 2000 (DPI/1134) and a brochure of the same title (DPI/1175). All these were issued in English, French and Spanish.

32. The Department of Public Information held an International Journalists Round Table on Human Rights at Headquarters in New York from 14 to 16 October 1991. Five main topics were taken up in half-day sessions consisting of presentations by main speakers and panel discussions, followed

by question and answer periods. The topics included "United Nations action in the field of human rights", with the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights as the keynote speaker; "Human rights and AIDS/HIV", with the Deputy Director of the World Health Organization Global Programme on AIDS as the main speaker; "Peace, international humanitarian law and humanitarian issues", with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as the main speaker; "Social justice and economic disparities", with the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as the main speaker; and "Freedom of the press and safety of journalists", with the Executive Director of the Committee to Protect Journalists as the main speaker.

33. The round table provided an opportunity for expanded contacts and collaboration between the Department of Public Information and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNESCO, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation and other United Nations organizations and offices, leading non-governmental organizations in the field of human rights and media organizations.

34. The Department continued its efforts to ensure comprehensive documentation and reference services on human rights for users of the libraries of United Nations information centres and services. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/99 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1991/24, a basic list of reference and information material on human rights was circulated to all United Nations information centres and services. On the basis of their replies, a comprehensive list of requirements was given to the Centre for Human Rights to enable it to provide the necessary documentation to those information centres lacking it. A chart indicating the status of this human rights documentation was provided to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1992/22, annex II).

35. Further to the request of the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1991/24 that the Secretary-General ensure that recent periodic reports of States parties to treaty monitoring bodies and the summary records of discussion of them in the treaty bodies be available in the United Nations information centres of the countries which had submitted them, the Centre for Human Rights informed the Department in September 1991 that arrangements had been made to provide all information centres with copies of relevant documentation. The Department subsequently informed all information centres of those arrangements and requested that they publicize the availability of those documents, with special emphasis in those countries that had submitted reports to the treaty bodies.

36. Over the years, the Department has published some 90 different language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since July 1990, the following 23 language versions have been printed by the Department or by different United Nations information centres: Bemba, Burmese (Myanmar), Bulgarian, Haitian Creole, Filipino, German, Greek, Hausa, Hungarian, Kaonde, Lozi, Lunda, Luvale, Maninka, Micmaq, Nyanja, Oshiwamba, Portuguese

(Brazilian), Pular, Romanian, Serbian, Sinhalese and Tonga. Some 15 additional language versions provided by the Centre for Human Rights are pending clarification of translations or clearances or are ready for publication. Among other human rights publications published recently in local languages are: Apartheid in South Africa in Japanese, notes and documents of the Centre against Apartheid in Greek and United Nations in the Forefront against Apartheid, in Greek and Japanese.

37. The Department has continued to issue Objective: Justice, a biannual subscription and sales publication. Its recent issues have focused on such topics as decolonization, the International Covenants, the specialists who monitor human rights, racism, protecting the rights of migrant workers, the human rights component of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador, ending apartheid, human rights and the family, results of the International Journalists Round Table on Human Rights, and traditional practices affecting the health of women and children. The Department's regular publications, including UN Chronicle, Yearbook of the United Nations and Development Forum also continued to devote articles to human rights issues.

38. Since it last reported to the General Assembly, the Department has produced and distributed world wide the 30-minute documentary film entitled New Horizons for Human Rights, in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. As part of the About the United Nations educational video series, the Department completed a video and accompanying teaching guide on human rights and the United Nations. The video kit, entitled Human Rights: The Rights of the Child, was produced in English, French and Spanish. This video, also available as a United Nations sales item, is aimed at secondary school children.

39. Video and television programmes such as UN in Action and programmes produced for CNN World Report, which are seen weekly in more than 120 countries, also include human rights issues. Human rights specialists are featured guests on World Chronicle, a weekly television programme produced by the Department and aired on over 150 channels around the United States of America. World Chronicle is also regularly used by United Nations information centres, especially in Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines and Trinidad and Tobago.

40. The Department has continued to give full press, radio and television coverage to the proceedings of all United Nations intergovernmental bodies dealing with human rights, such as the Commission on Human Rights and its various committees and working groups, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee against Torture, other treaty bodies and the work of special rapporteurs.

41. In keeping with its role to coordinate system-wide the public information activities of the World Campaign, the Department has held informal consultations with United Nations agency representatives at Headquarters on inter-agency collaboration in the field of human rights, particularly regarding the preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights to be held

in 1993 and the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, to be celebrated also in 1993. These discussions have included planning for special events and activities, including the launching of the International Year on 10 December 1992, Human Rights Day. At the annual session of the Joint United Nations Information Committee, held at Rome from 7 to 9 July 1992, the Department presented proposals for joint public information projects, the sharing of audio-visual materials, more coverage of human rights issues by each agency in preparation for the Conference and the International Year and/or funding of other activities. Several of these proposals are expected to be finalized later this year.

42. The Department continues to include human rights issues in its briefings for non-governmental organizations. More than 1,200 non-governmental organizations world wide are associated directly with the Department and some 200 representatives of those organizations regularly attend the weekly briefings at Headquarters. Briefings on human rights issues are also part of the Department's annual orientation programme for newly appointed non-governmental organizations representatives.

43. The Department's annual six-week training programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries, held at Headquarters during the General Assembly, includes briefings on the United Nations work on human rights issues.

44. The Department's Public Inquiries Unit continues to receive numerous requests for information on human rights. More than 1,000 such requests were received in 1991 and 1,700 requests in 1990. The focal point on human rights in the Department's Communications and Project Management Division also receives an average of 100 telephone and written requests each month for human rights information and publications. The Dissemination Division of the Department continues to distribute increased quantities of the Department's human rights materials and publications; in 1992 it distributed 182,000 copies compared to 158,000 in 1990. The Visitors Service at Headquarters has also received increased requests for in-house briefings on human rights; in 1991 it arranged 29 such briefings for 1,539 people, compared to 20 briefings for 700 people in 1990. In addition, information on United Nations work in the field of human rights continues to be given to visitors to Headquarters. There were 460,000 such visitors in 1991.

45. The Department includes information material pertaining to human rights and related issues in its weekly radio programmes in official and non-official languages. During the period 1991 to mid-1992, 155 programmes or segments focused on general human rights issues, 485 on combating apartheid, 410 on the elimination of racial discrimination, 279 on protection and assistance to refugees, 132 on the rights of the child and 339 on the advancement of women. The radio programmes are produced in 19 languages and distributed to broadcasting organizations, United Nations information centres and other disseminators world wide.

B. Preparations for special activities in 1993

46. The Department of Public Information is working closely with the Centre for Human Rights in the preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights and the International Year for the World's Indigenous People. The Department has developed a signature campaign for the Conference and another for the Year. Since the flame logo is so closely identified with United Nations action in the field of human rights, as well as with the World Campaign, it has been incorporated into these signature programmes to be used on all information products for the Conference or for the Year.

47. As already reported to the Preparatory Committee for the Conference at its second and third sessions, the Department has designed a public information programme to emphasize the purpose and objectives of the Conference and to enhance public awareness of major human rights issues. The programme reflects the equal importance and indivisibility of all categories of human rights, as well as the interrelationship between human rights and development with full respect for the Charter of the United Nations.

48. The main elements of the public information programme for the Conference are:

(a) An illustrated brochure (six official languages and German) published in August 1992;

(b) A multi-colour poster (six official languages and German) published in August 1992;

(c) A print public service announcement (English) to be produced late in 1992;

(d) A press information kit (English, French and Spanish) to be produced and distributed in time for Human Rights Day, 10 December 1992;

(e) Special coverage of the issues before the Conference to be printed in the UN Chronicle (six official languages), beginning in the fourth quarter of 1992;

(f) A special edition of the publication Notes for Speakers (English, French and Spanish) for distribution early in 1993;

(g) Local information programmes to be carried out by selected United Nations information centres;

(h) Reprints of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the official languages and in selected local language versions;

(i) A series of special radio feature documentaries (six official languages) for distribution beginning in January 1993;

(j) Four or more segments of the television programme UN in Action for use by the CNN weekly programme World Report (these items will also be distributed in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish to additional broadcasters world wide, as well as to television networks in China and Japan);

(k) Two or more half-hour programmes in the television series World Chronicle, to include interviews with leading human rights personalities.

49. The Department is also planning its coverage activities for the Conference itself, and for the meetings of the Preparatory Committee. Further to the request of the Preparatory Committee at its second session, the Department is making arrangements for press and possible radio coverage of the regional preparatory meetings scheduled for Bangkok, San José and Tunis.

50. The Department is working with Super Channel (a European television network) on the production of a series of television spots to promote the Conference. It is also cooperating with Global Vision Inc. regarding the inclusion of United Nations information relating to the Conference in a weekly television series on human rights to be broadcast by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in the United States. Contacts are also being made with other television networks around the world for the broadcast of human rights programmes before and around the time of the Conference. Super Channel, for example, will feature human rights programmes during the month of June 1993.

51. Regarding preparations for the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, the Department has designed a public information programme to promote awareness of indigenous people, their concerns and problems, and to encourage action to protect and promote their human rights; to highlight issues such as resource and environment management, diversity of cultures, education, health care and ways to improve the general well-being of indigenous peoples; to publicize relevant international legal instruments related to the objectives of the Year and to promote their widespread ratification and implementation; and to increase awareness, especially in indigenous communities, of the United Nations work in areas related to the objectives of the Year.

52. Major elements of the Department's public information programme for the Year include:

(a) An illustrated brochure (six official languages) printed in August 1992;

(b) A multi-colour poster (six official languages) printed in August 1992;

(c) A press kit to be produced and distributed in time for Human Rights Day, 10 December 1992;

(d) A series of feature articles targeted mainly at the mass media, to be issued periodically within the United Nations Focus series (English, French and Spanish);

(e) A chapter in the special edition of the publication Notes for Speakers (English, French and Spanish) to be distributed early in 1993;

(f) Special coverage of issues of concern to indigenous peoples in the publications UN Chronicle (six official languages) and Development Forum (English, French and Spanish);

(g) Special radio programmes on indigenous people as part of the Department's Perspective series;

(h) One or more segments of the television programme UN in Action for use on the CNN weekly programme World Report (also to be produced in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish for distribution to additional broadcasters world wide and to television networks in China and Japan);

(i) one or more half-hour programmes in the television series World Chronicle.

Coverage of issues related to the Year will also be included in regular activities of the Department and in its activities related to the World Conference on Human Rights.

53. In collaboration with seven United Nations partners (the Centre for Human Rights, UNICEF, UNESCO, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme), the Department is planning a special event at Headquarters on Human Rights Day, 10 December 1992, to mark the launching of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People. The event, a cultural evening and reception, will immediately follow the General Assembly meeting officially launching the Year. That morning the Department will also organize a special non-governmental organizations briefing on the Year and will assist the Centre for Human Rights in holding a press conference on the occasion of the launch.

54. In cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Department is planning activities for Earth Day 1993 that will focus on the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

C. Activities of information centres and services

55. Because the Centre for Human Rights is located at Geneva, the United Nations Information Service at Geneva has a special role in the Department's activities in the field of human rights. The Information Service continued to cover, through print and audio-visual programmes, the proceedings of all United Nations intergovernmental bodies dealing with human rights at Geneva. In 1991, a total of 11,900 publications on the general issue of human rights were distributed. In addition, the following numbers of publications on related issues were distributed: 1,380 copies on racial discrimination, 1,200 on women's issues, 800 on apartheid and 3,200 on the rights of the child, and

588 press releases (313 in English, 275 in French) on general human rights issues. Press conferences and interviews are regularly conducted with personalities engaged in activities in support of human rights. Special events continued to be organized by the Information Service in observance of international days and weeks on issues related to human rights.

56. Among its activities in 1992, the United Nations Information Service at Geneva has highlighted the work of the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights and the special session of the Commission on Human Rights (13-14 August 1992). Television coverage of these and other meetings was distributed world wide through international television news agencies. For example, 15 television news packages were recently transmitted through VIS NEWS, WTN and CNN. Material was provided to non-governmental organizations for use in their public information programmes.

57. Radio and television facilities are regularly provided to journalists at Geneva covering human rights activities. In recent months, 16 radio news reports, 12 interviews and floor recordings of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission were provided to United Nations Radio at Headquarters for use in its programmes.

58. In the last few months, in connection with the Commission on Human Rights and the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, the Information Service has accredited 143 visiting journalists in addition to the permanent press corps accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva; organized 23 special press conferences; and organized 20 meetings and briefings for non-governmental organizations.

59. The Information Service continues to represent the Department at special human rights meetings at Geneva, such as the fourth inter-agency meeting on human rights (25 June 1992), the technical meeting on the International Year for the World's Indigenous People (9-11 March and 3-5 August 1992) and the third inter-agency meeting on indigenous and tribal peoples (6 August 1992). It will represent the Department in the Conference Management Committee for the Conference, to be established at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

60. As in previous years, the Information Service organized a Round Table to commemorate International Women's Day in March. The topic this year was "Human rights: advancing the status of women". As part of its graduate student internship programme in July 1992, two panel discussions focused on human rights.

61. The network of 67 United Nations information centres and services continues to undertake information activities in observance of Human Rights Day and other human rights events. These include mounting document, photographic and poster exhibitions; screening films and videos for various audiences; producing background material, fact sheets, information kits and newsletters containing articles on human rights and related issues; disseminating relevant information materials from Headquarters such as press kits, feature articles, background notes, press releases and official

documents and translating them into local languages, as appropriate; organizing or assisting in events, meetings, public gatherings and briefings on human rights issues; participating in seminars, panels and lectures for educational and other institutions; and giving interviews to the local media.

IV. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

62. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 45/99, the General Assembly called upon the Centre for Human Rights to coordinate the substantive activities of the World Campaign and to serve as liaison with Governments, regional and national institutions, non-governmental organizations and concerned individuals in the development and implementation of those activities. It also stressed, in paragraph 13, the need for the United Nations to harmonize its public information activities in the field of human rights with those of other organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and UNESCO in the relevant fields of competence.

A. United Nations system

63. As part of its ongoing efforts to coordinate its activities with those of other United Nations bodies and in keeping with the above-mentioned resolution, the Centre for Human rights convenes each year at Geneva an inter-agency meeting on human rights issues. These meetings allow participants to review joint projects and to exchange information on a number of ongoing activities in the field of human rights carried out by the various organizations. They also provide an opportunity for further forms of cooperation to be identified between the Centre and the organizations represented. Information, documentation and education in the field of human rights is one of the items on the agenda of these meetings. In 1991 and 1992, the inter-agency meetings were held in April and June, respectively.

64. In connection with the 1992 meeting, the Centre for Human Rights presented a working paper containing proposals and suggestions for enhancing inter-agency cooperation in the context of the World Campaign. The paper identified some specific project areas where cooperation between the agencies represented at the meeting could usefully be strengthened and improved. Translation of human rights international instruments, organization of training courses, seminars and workshops, preparation of training manuals and of teaching materials for primary and secondary schools, publications and the human rights of women are all fields in which inter-agency cooperation could and should be strengthened through more systematic collaboration. A number of methods designed to facilitate such cooperation were proposed. The convening of regular meetings of information officers of the various organizations is, for instance, one logical way of ensuring the periodic exchange of information on programmes and the identification of areas of possible future cooperation. The concept of shared staffing was also mooted as another means by which sustained inter-agency contact could be maintained.

Inter-agency meetings, 1991 and 1992

1. Department of Public Information

65. The Department of Public Information participated in both the inter-agency meetings of 1991 and 1992. Details of the activity of the Department in the field of human rights are given in section III above.

2. Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

66. At the 1991 inter-agency meeting, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs recalled its productive cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights, in particular with reference to seminars and training courses. It reaffirmed the need to disseminate more forcefully the principles leading to respect for human rights, which was at the basis of social development. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs welcomed the various initiatives of the Centre for Human Rights in setting up centres for documentation and training and proposed to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations through the establishment of an internship exchange programme.

3. Division for the Advancement of Women

67. The working paper presented by the Centre for Human Rights to the 1992 meeting contained a number of special proposals for strengthening cooperation between and coordinating the activities of the Centre and other parts of the United Nations system dealing with women's issues. The representative of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, welcomed a proposal of the Centre for Human Rights which concerned the joint production of a fact sheet on women and human rights. Other possibilities of joint ventures in publications could also be explored. The Division's activities relating to women and human rights were summarized briefly. It was suggested that a further area of useful cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights could be in the translation, into non-official languages, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Division has already produced some versions, but the cooperation of the Centre in expanding its translations programme would be warmly welcomed.

4. United Nations Interregional Crime Research Institute

68. A principal activity of the United Nations Interregional Crime Research Institute (UNICRI) is the organization of training courses, which are directed to different target groups both directly and indirectly involved in criminality and the administration of justice. UNICRI pointed out that human rights issues were a standard feature of its working programme and at the 1991 meeting proposed that the two organizations cooperate in the production of a

human rights kit for use in the field, containing the basic documents on human rights standards, information and documentation. The call for cooperation with other agencies in the preparation of its training courses was repeated by UNICRI at the 1992 meeting.

5. United Nations's Children's Fund

69. The Centre for Human Rights has actively cooperated with UNICEF in developing and disseminating materials to promote the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which entered into force on 2 September 1990. At the 1991 inter-agency meeting, UNICEF stressed the importance of education for children, in particular immigrant children. It was pointed out that a growing number of requests from Member States concerned changes in their legislation in the field of children's rights.

6. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

70. In the course of the 1991 inter-agency meeting, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recalled its specific mandate and stressed that the present world situation encouraged the possibility of cooperation in the field of human rights, particularly in view of the acknowledged link between human rights, economic cooperation and development. UNCTAD expressed interest in collaborating with the Centre in a number of areas of study, including the interrelationship between poverty, underdevelopment and human rights violations and the social dimensions of the international economic system and realization of human rights at the national level. Additional opportunities for cooperation between the Centre and UNCTAD were mentioned in relation to those UNCTAD projects in which a human rights perspective was needed. At the 1992 meeting, UNCTAD suggested that information activities on human rights be expanded and targeted not only to specialized groups, but also to the general public. This could be done through a greater use of mass media, such as radio, television and newspapers.

7. United Nations Development Programme

71. Cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Centre for Human Rights started with a joint project in Colombia and has been further enhanced and developed since 1989. At the 1992 inter-agency meeting, UNDP stressed the importance that human rights issues play in the process of development. In particular, it made reference to the UNDP Human Development Report 1992, in which human rights matters are explicitly taken into consideration and a "human freedom index" is provided. With reference to the action of the Centre in national and regional human rights institution-building, UNDP offered its cooperation through its resident representatives in the field. Cooperation between UNDP and the Centre was considered useful, during and after the pre-project phase, so as to benefit from appropriate local logistic reference before the actual start of project

implementation. It was suggested that this proposal be renewed in further bilateral meetings between staff members of the two organizations.

8. United Nations Population Fund

72. At the 1992 inter-agency meeting, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) stressed the need to establish a solid connection between the agencies which had field structures and the institutions which had implementation responsibilities. That would enable the different organizations to take into consideration, in developing their information programmes, the special needs of field-based offices. This could involve, for example, the translation, into non-official languages, of those conventions that were related to the field work of UNFPA officials and making them available in the countries concerned.

9. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

73. Cooperation between the Centre for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is based on the common aim of the two organizations. UNHCR is interested in strengthening cooperation with the Centre in order to protect persons in their country of origin, thus preventing refugee situations from arising in the first place. At the 1991 meeting, UNHCR expressed particular interest in collaborating with the Centre in information and training in human rights issues at the national level, and to further the evolution of substantive concepts of refugee law, such as arbitrary detention, persecution and displaced persons. A further subject of cooperation would be human rights and mass exodus, as such movements characterized a large number of contemporary refugee situations. UNHCR stressed the importance of its active participation in the World Conference on Human Rights to be held in 1993 and proposed that the two organizations set up an informal working group to deal with practical issues and problems in this field. At the 1992 inter-agency meeting, UNHCR pointed out that cooperation between the agencies attending the meeting could be strengthened in the organization of training courses, which were very often directed at the same kind of audience. UNHCR is currently developing various training models on, inter alia, repatriation and refugee women, which could benefit from the expertise of other agencies; the Refugee Documentation Centre could also assist other agencies with technical inputs.

10. International Labour Organisation

74. At the 1991 inter-agency meeting it was pointed out that cooperation between the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Centre for Human Rights could be further strengthened by focusing on joint production of basic public information materials. ILO proposed to cover human rights issues in the courses it was organizing for UNDP coordinators. Substantive subjects of cooperation between both organizations could be those concerning migrant

workers and indigenous peoples. Mention was made of the joint working group which was looking into ways and means to develop further the cooperation between the two organizations.

11. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

75. The activity of UNESCO in the field of human rights education, training and information tends to the creation of a human rights network for education. In particular, UNESCO is promoting associate school programmes, including human rights issues, and the Club de l'UNESCO actively participates in such action, providing curricula, programmes and publications for the use of non-governmental organizations. Associated university programmes and UNESCO chairs are promoted in a number of universities world wide. Every second year, UNESCO sponsors the Prize for Teaching Human Rights. UNESCO publishes material in the field of human rights regarding discrimination, women, children and apartheid issues. UNESCO will organize in 1993 a World Conference for Human Rights Teaching and Education in which the Centre for Human Rights has been invited to participate. At the 1991 inter-agency meeting, UNESCO underlined the necessity of inserting human rights education into general international education efforts. It also identified possible fields of further cooperation between that organization and the Centre, including the establishment of a human rights data bank and the elaboration of a human rights teaching manual to be adapted to the different cultural, political and institutional realities. At the 1992 meeting, reference was made to the UNESCO Directory of Human Rights Institutes and to different bibliographic works which UNESCO has undertaken in cooperation with other United Nations organizations, including the Centre. UNESCO also drew attention to its work in the translation of international human rights instruments into local languages. Special efforts are currently being devoted to the translation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

12. World Health Organization

76. Coordination between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centre for Human Rights has been fruitful in the past, particularly in relation to the organization and conduct of seminars. At the 1991 inter-agency meeting, WHO recalled the importance of cooperation in the field of human rights and health care, in particular with reference to the HIV and AIDS information campaign. Particular attention has been given to the education of children at school, in cooperation with UNESCO and UNICEF. Reaffirming its availability for any further form of cooperation with the Centre, WHO stressed the importance of the media in disseminating information on human rights. At the 1992 inter-agency meeting, WHO responded to the working paper presented by the Centre by informing the meeting that an internal group would be convened to consider the proposals contained therein. It also suggested that information on human rights issues could usefully be included in its programmes of medical education. Other areas of cooperation could also be found in its programme of health promotion.

B. Other organizations

77. Throughout 1991, the Centre for Human Rights continued its efforts to increase cooperation with other organizations dealing with human rights, such as international and regional organizations, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the media.

1. International Committee of the Red Cross

78. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also participated in the inter-agency meetings of 1991 and 1992. The ICRC representative expressed great interest in strengthening cooperation between the two organizations in order to develop the links between substantive elements of humanitarian law and human rights law. Great emphasis was given to the active involvement of ICRC in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights.

2. Regional organizations

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

79. In 1991, the Centre was invited for the first time to contribute to activities related to human rights organized in the context of the Conference on Security and Cooperation Europe. In particular, it participated in the meeting of experts on national minorities, held at Geneva, and it was represented at the Conference on the Human Dimension, held in Moscow.

Commonwealth Secretariat

80. The Commonwealth Secretariat was represented at the 1991 inter-agency meeting. Its representative recalled the importance of elaborating appropriate material for human rights teaching and training. In particular, reference was made to the human rights manual which could serve as a basic text to be adapted to the different local cultural, administrative and institutional realities. She stressed the need to find more practical ways to strengthen cooperation between UNDP, ILO and the Centre for Human Rights and to create some network activities in the field of human rights. The Commonwealth Secretariat reported about the creation of a Commonwealth database on human rights resources and expressed the hope for cooperation with the Centre on this subject.

Council of Europe

81. The Centre for Human Rights was represented at the forty-second ordinary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe at Strasbourg, France, in 1992. It participated in the following activities organized by the Council of Europe: the third conference on parliamentary democracy (Strasbourg), the seminar on women and prostitution (Strasbourg), the

coordination meeting on cooperation with Eastern European countries (Strasbourg) and the colloquium on democracy and legal protection of human rights (Lisbon).

Organization of African Unity

82. The Centre for Human Rights cooperates with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights of the Organization of African Unity in a number of training and information activities. It was also represented at the tenth session of the Commission.

Organization of American States

83. The Centre for Human Rights has continued its cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Members of the Inter-American Commission participated in a number of training programmes organized by the Centre. The Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights attended the meeting of the United Nations Secretariat and OAS, held in New York in May 1991. Talks took place between the Centre and OAS on the possibility of establishing three subregional human rights centres for documentation and training in Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

3. Other non-governmental organizations

84. Non-governmental organizations continue to cooperate actively with the United Nations bodies dealing with human rights, providing them with information and expertise. Non-governmental organizations also effectively contribute to the implementation of the activities of the World Campaign, especially in the areas of information, education and dissemination of United Nations materials and publications. The General Assembly made reference to the valuable action of non-governmental organizations in paragraph 14 of resolution 45/99, in which it requested the Secretariat, in the implementation of the Campaign, to take advantage, as much as possible, of the collaboration of non-governmental organizations for, inter alia, the dissemination of human rights materials.

85. In connection with the forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, special briefings for representatives of non-governmental organizations were given by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and senior staff members of the Centre. Special meetings with the Chairmen of the Commission and of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities were also organized.

86. A briefing on human rights issues and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was organized in New York by the Non-Governmental Organization Committee for Human Rights and attended by about 50 non-governmental organization representatives. A staff member from the Centre participated.

87. The Under-Secretary-General addressed the eighteenth General Assembly of the Conference of Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, which was held at Geneva in October 1991. The main theme of the Assembly was "non-governmental organizations in a changing United Nations: opportunities and responsibilities".

88. Special briefings on the World Conference on Human Rights for the non-governmental organizations community were held at Headquarters in New York and at Geneva by senior staff members of the Centre for Human Rights.

4. Academic and research institutions

89. The Centre actively participated in activities organized by the Graduate Institute of International Studies at Geneva. Senior staff members gave lectures at the Seminar on International Security and took part in the Colloquium on Problems and Prospects of Refugee Law.

90. The Centre provided the International Institute for Human Rights, at Strasbourg, France, with three staff members to give lectures in English, French and Spanish for a one-week period during the Institute's annual human rights courses in the summer of 1991 and 1992. United Nations fellows on human rights regularly spend two weeks at the Institute in order to deepen their knowledge of regional human rights protection systems.

91. The Centre and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo, Italy continued their cooperation. A training course on international human rights standards and the administration of justice for officials of French-speaking African countries was organized at San Remo from 11 to 15 March 1991 by the Centre in cooperation with UNICRI, the Italian Government and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law. In view of the success of this training course, a similar one was organized from 9 to 13 March 1992 for officials from English-speaking African countries. A representative of the Centre participated in the eighth seminar on contemporary international humanitarian law and current human rights issues in Europe, held by the Institute at Bucharest. The seminar focused on the implementation of humanitarian law at the national level and on the protection of refugees and displaced persons. The Centre also attended the annual session of the Institute's Administrative Council at San Remo.

92. The Centre actively cooperated with the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences, at Siracusa, Italy. Representatives of the Centre attended the fifth seminar on human rights issues, the meeting on the protection of human rights in the administration of criminal justice in Central and Eastern Europe and the seminar on the protection of human rights in criminal justice proceedings for African jurists, at Siracusa.

93. The Centre continued its cooperation with the Nordic Human Rights Institutes. It participated in the seminar on human rights, refugee law and small nations organized by the Institutes at Laugarvatn, Iceland. A staff

member gave lectures at the course on the international protection of human rights, organized by the Abo Akademi University at Turku, Finland, and a written contribution has been sent to the meeting of the HURIDOCS (Human Rights Information and Documentation System) Task Force on Databasing convened at Oslo by the Norwegian Institute of Human Rights. The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights organized, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Namibia and the Swedish International Development Authority, a workshop on human rights, at Windhoek, in which the Centre also took part. The Centre also participated in the seminar on academic freedom organized in the context of the preparatory process for the World Conference on Human Rights by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute at Lund, Sweden.

94. Cooperation with the Arab Institute for Human Rights at Tunis, continued throughout 1991 and 1992. The Centre is a member of the Institute's Executive Board and it participated in its annual sessions. The Centre also took part in various training activities organized by the Institute, such as the Séminaire arabo-africaine sur la justice pénale et la réforme pénitentiaire, held at Tunis. The Centre regularly provides the Institute with documentation about the activity of United Nations human rights bodies.

95. For the second year, in June 1991 the Centre was represented at the summer session on human rights organized by the European University Institute at Fiesole, Italy. The session focused on the law of the European Community and the protection of human rights in Europe.

96. The Centre provided a staff member to the Academy of International Law and the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights to give lectures at the training course on the international law of human rights held at The Hague.

5. Briefings and radio and television interviews

97. The Centre organizes occasional briefings on the United Nations activities in the field of human rights and on specific human rights issues for students, diplomats, journalists, public officials, professors and non-governmental organizations. It also provides lecturers for the briefings organized by the Department of Public Information. Especially in connection with official visits, training courses, workshops and other meetings, the Centre provides radio and television interviews on human rights issues and press conferences. In October 1991, the Under-Secretary-General participated in the International Journalists Round Table on Human Rights and the United Nations organized by the Department of Public Information in New York and gave throughout the year numerous interviews on human rights issues to television, radio, magazines and newspapers.

V. HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCES

A. Official commemorations

98. Official commemorations were organized by the Department of Public Information and the Centre for Human Rights at United Nations Headquarters in New York and at Geneva as well as at United Nations information centres and services throughout the world.

99. A round table was organized at Geneva on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March 1991. Representatives of the Under-Secretary-General and of the Centre for Human Rights, and members of United Nations bodies and representatives of international organizations, took part in the round table.

100. The tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was commemorated on 3 September 1991. A panel discussion to examine and evaluate the application of the convention was organized.

101. A celebration of Human Rights Day took place at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 10 December 1991. The forty-third anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights coincided with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In order to commemorate this event, the Centre and the Department for Public Information organized a ceremony on the theme "The Human Rights Covenants and the Optional Protocol 25 years later", together with an exhibition of lithographs on the Universal Declaration and a concert.

B. Exhibitions and other activities

102. A number of exhibitions were sponsored by the Centre for Human Rights in 1991. They were organized in connection with human rights events such as meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission for Prevention of Discrimination and Prevention of Minorities, United Nations Day, Human Rights Day and World AIDS Day (2 December).

103. On 6 August 1991, a concert entitled "Free human rights" took place at Geneva. The concert was organized by the Rehab Hope Fund, Inc., an American non-profit public benefit corporation, and co-sponsored by the Centre, on the occasion of the presentation of the report of Mr. L. Despouy, Special Rapporteur on disability, to the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination of Minorities.

VI. NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

104. The General Assembly, in paragraph 12 of its resolution 43/128, urged all Member States that had not yet done so to designate national focal points that could be supplied with copies of relevant human rights material and that might also serve as points of liaison with the United Nations in the development and implementation of the World Campaign. As at 31 July 1992, 24 Governments had designated focal points.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 2 (E/1991/22).

2/ Ibid., 1992, Supplement No. 2 (E/1992/22).

ANNEX

List of publications issued by the Centre for Human Rights as at September 1992

FACT SHEETS

Fact Sheet No. 1	Human Rights Machinery
Fact Sheet No. 2	The International Bill of Human Rights
Fact Sheet No. 3	Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights
Fact Sheet No. 4	Methods of Combating Torture
Fact Sheet No. 5	Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
Fact Sheet No. 6	Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
Fact Sheet No. 7	Communications Procedures
Fact Sheet No. 8	World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights
Fact Sheet No. 9	The Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Fact Sheet No. 10	The Rights of the Child
Fact Sheet No. 11	Summary or Arbitrary Executions
Fact Sheet No. 12	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Fact Sheet No. 13	International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
Fact Sheet No. 14	Contemporary Forms of Slavery
Fact Sheet No. 15	Civil and Political Rights: The Human Rights Committee
Fact Sheet No. 16	The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Fact Sheet No. 17	The Committee against Torture
Fact Sheet No. 18	Minority Rights

BULLETIN OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Special issue on the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1988)

Implementation of International Human Rights Instruments (1989, No. 1)

Special procedures: The role of non-governmental organizations (1990, No. 1)

Human Rights and Humanitarian Law: Human Rights and Refugee Law (1991, No. 1)

AD HOC PUBLICATIONS

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A

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Right to development

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 46/123 of 17 December 1991, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report on the effective implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development (E/CN.4/1992/10) concerning, inter alia, the measures taken by Governments, United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies to implement the right to development.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	2
II.	REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS	2
	Russian Federation	2

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-sixth session the General Assembly adopted decision 46/414 of 6 December 1991, entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security". In this decision the General Assembly, inter alia, invited Member States to provide their views on the implementation of the Declaration, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

2. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale on 13 July 1992 to the Governments of Member States inviting them to submit their views in accordance with the above-mentioned decision.

3. As at 7 October 1992, a reply had been received from the Russian Federation. Any further replies will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[Original: Russian]

[23 September 1992]

1. The Russian Federation considers the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security an important document, which promoted awareness of the tasks facing the world community in achieving the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations at the current stage. The future activities of the Organization relating to international security problems must reflect the profound changes that have taken place in the world arena and must seek to strengthen the consensus on the ways to establish a new democratic world order.

2. Russia firmly intends to support efforts to strengthen the Organization as an instrument for building a democratic world on the basis of the principles of the primacy of legality, human rights and political and economic freedom. In the new world order that is being created, the United Nations, in our view, is faced with the task of establishing a reliable global system of collective security made up of three basic components:

(a) Promoting the disarmament processes; preventing and settling conflicts; and maintaining and establishing peace, including the taking of coercive measures against an aggressor;

(b) Affirmation of the highest humanitarian principles;

(c) Ensuring the stable economic and social development of all States, and broad cooperation in solving major transnational problems (ecological problems, dangerous diseases, natural disasters, international crime, etc.).

3. The possibilities for enhancing the role of the United Nations and making thorough use of the potential laid down in its Charter are very great today. On the one hand, an increasing number of States, overcoming the cold war and confrontation syndrome, are demonstrating a readiness for practical cooperation through the United Nations system; and, on the other hand, multilateral institutions are giving the world community the chance to pass through the transitional period with minimal outlays.

4. The process of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, is of decisive importance for strengthening military and political stability.

5. The framework agreement on further significant reductions in strategic offensive weapons and the concept of global defence against ballistic missiles put forward by the Russian Federation and the United States of America were one of the most important achievements of the recent Russian-American summit meeting at Washington.

6. In accordance with its foreordained mission, the United Nations must actively promote the continuity and globalization of the process of real disarmament that has begun, the joining of the efforts of all States towards the establishment of a reliable non-proliferation regime for weapons of mass destruction, the cessation of nuclear tests and the strengthening of confidence-building measures.

7. The Russian Federation believes that building stable structures for global security is inseparably linked to the progressive development of the common European process and the implementation of the principles proclaimed in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe. Russia is prepared to participate actively in the establishment of a collective common European system of security.

8. The reality of the current stage of world development is such that the reduced global threat of war does not provide sufficient safeguards against outbursts of regional tensions and local wars. In today's world, where time and space have been compressed to a maximum, there is a need to rethink the very concept of "international peace and security".

9. A high level of cooperation among the members of the Security Council is necessary to enable the United Nations not only to react effectively to challenges that arise but also to act "in anticipation". There is a need to improve further the anti-crisis machinery of the Organization: from greater utilization of the means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes to expanding the sphere for using United Nations peace-keeping operations and decisive coercive actions to establish international peace and security in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter.

10. Russia, for its part, is participating actively and practically in United Nations peace-keeping operations and is taking part in the provision of supplies and equipment.

11. Recent experience demonstrates the importance of clearly coordinating and combining the peacemaking efforts of the United Nations and regional organizations. In this way, it would be possible to make the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter truly meaningful. The adoption by the General Assembly of the draft declaration on the improvement of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, which was submitted by Russia to the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, would help in carrying out this task.

12. Welcoming the Organization's success in peacemaking, Russia notes the increasingly urgent need to strengthen substantially the preventive component of United Nations activities. Supporting the proposals made in this regard in the Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace", we consider that the implementation of those proposals will make it possible to forestall the occurrence of new crises and make the trend towards rejection of violence as a means for settling disputes and differences universal and steadfast.

13. Protecting human rights, freedom and the interests of individuals as a basis of the contemporary civilized world order is a major area for efforts to be made by the United Nations. The world community cannot ignore blatant and mass violations of human rights and discrimination against national minorities. The principle of non-interference cannot confer immunity here either. It would be useful to elaborate within the United Nations a special document that would define international legal responsibility in the field of human rights and include measures for exerting influence on States that violate such rights.

14. There is an inseparable link between the secure world of the future and the building of a new structure for international economic relations based on the principles of justice and equality, the conversion of military production, the broadening of multilateral cooperation with regard to the problems of foreign debt, and measures to deal with hunger, poverty and natural disasters.

15. Carrying out a radical economic reform and striving to become an integral part of a world economy, we are aware of the impact of the processes occurring in Russia on the global economic situation and we view our obligations to the world community with the utmost seriousness. The economic activities of the United Nations must take into account the interests of all its Members on the basis of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation and the International Development Strategy.

16. The universal nature of the task of protecting the environment also requires a coordinated international approach. Russia considers that the results of the second United Nations Conference on Environment and Development are positive. The documents adopted at the Conference constitute a good moral

and legal basis for enhancing cooperation in the field of ecology and developing preventive measures to avert natural catastrophes and technological disasters and effectively deal with their consequences.

17. The Russian Federation is open to concrete constructive dialogue with all States and the search for more rational approaches to ensuring general security with the central coordinating role of the United Nations.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

CONTENTS

Page

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

Germany 2

GERMANY

[Original: English]

[12 October 1992]

The Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security contains a plethora of thoughts that have contributed to the considerable achievements reached in the field of international security since its adoption. In a time of new challenges, however, we must recognize that new ways have to be found and implemented in order to preserve peace effectively. The Secretary-General's report "Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277-S/24111) contains extensive proposals that should be drawn upon in this regard.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Question of Western Sahara

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its forty-sixth session, on 11 December 1991, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 46/67 which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

"Recalling the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

"Recalling also its resolution 45/21 of 20 November 1990,

"Recalling further that, on 30 August 1988, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro agreed in principle to the proposals of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in the context of their joint mission of good offices,

"Recalling Security Council resolution 621 (1988) of 20 September 1988, concerning the question of Western Sahara,

"Recalling also Security Council resolution 658 (1990) of 27 June 1990, approving the report of the Secretary-General of

18 June 1990, 1/ which contains the full text of the settlement proposals as accepted by the two parties, as well as an outline of the plan of the Secretary-General for the implementation of those proposals,

"Noting with satisfaction the paragraph on Western Sahara in the report of the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Accra from 2 to 7 September 1991, 2/

"Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, 3/

"Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General, 4/

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. Welcomes the unanimous adoption by the Security Council on 29 April 1991 of resolution 690 (1991), by which the Council approved the report submitted by the Secretary-General on 19 April 1991 5/ and decided to establish, under its authority, a United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara;

"3. Also welcomes the entry into force of the cease-fire in Western Sahara on 6 September 1991, in accordance with the proposal of the Secretary-General accepted by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro;

"4. Endorses the call by the Security Council upon the two parties to continue to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General in the implementation of his plan as described in his report of 18 June 1990 1/ and amplified in his report of 19 April 1991;

"1/ S/21360; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-fifth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1990, document S/21360.

"2/ A/46/726, annex, para. 64.

"3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23), chap. VIII.

"4/ A/46/589.

"5/ S/22464 and Corr.1; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1991, document S/22464.

"5. Pays tribute to the Secretary-General for his action with a view to settling the question of Western Sahara by the implementation of his peace plan;

"6. Expresses its full support for the efforts of the Secretary-General for the organization and supervision by the United Nations, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in accordance with the objectives mentioned in his report of 19 April 1991;

"7. Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara, bearing in mind the ongoing referendum process, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

"8. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. The present report, which covers the period from 24 October 1991 to 2 October 1992, is submitted in pursuance of paragraph 8 of the above resolution.

3. The Secretary-General has pursued his mission of good offices jointly with the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the question of Western Sahara.

4. In pursuance of Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed regularly of the implementation of his settlement plan for Western Sahara, the Secretary-General submitted a report to the Council on 19 September 1991. 1/ The Secretary-General indicated that, owing to slow progress in the accomplishment of certain tasks, the timetable accepted by the Security Council, which had been proposed in his report of 19 April 1991, 2/ had to be adjusted. That was largely due to the complexity of the identification process, whose purpose was to establish the list of those who would vote in the referendum. The Secretary-General reported that the general regulations governing the organization of the referendum had been promulgated and had been made available to the President of the Security Council on 11 November 1991. The mandate of the Identification Commission and instructions relating to its tasks had also been finalized.

5. On 31 December 1991, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 725 (1991), in which, inter alia, it approved the efforts of the Secretary-General for the organization and the supervision, by the United Nations in cooperation with OAU, of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara and therefore welcomed the report of the Secretary-General. 1/

6. Speaking on the question of Western Sahara at the opening of the session of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, on 5 February 1992, the Secretary-General stated that the question was a matter of particular concern to the international community. Under the guidance of the Security Council, which remained seized of the question, he would actively pursue the efforts of the United Nations, in cooperation with OAU, to find a peaceful, just and lasting solution (A/AC.109/PV.1398; see also A/AC.109/1125).

7. On 14 February 1992, the Secretary-General met with Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz, Secretary-General of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO), and other representatives of the Frente POLISARIO in New York. The Secretary-General and Mr. Abdelaziz agreed on the importance of giving new momentum to the United Nations operation in Western Sahara.

8. The Secretary-General submitted a report to the Security Council on the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) on 28 February 1992, 3/ in pursuance of paragraph 4 of Council resolution 725 (1991). The report covered the military aspects of MINURSO, as well as other aspects of the operation, including developments which had taken place since the last report to the Council on 19 December 1991. 1/ In the conclusions and recommendations of the report, the Secretary-General noted that the referendum in Western Sahara should have taken place in January 1992. However, it had not been possible to proceed in conformity with the original timetable, in view of continuing problems and persistent differences of interpretation with regard to the implementation of the plan. He did believe that a target date should be set for the resolution of all outstanding issues that blocked the implementation of the plan. In his view, three months would be a reasonable period to set for that task. He would accordingly propose to report further to the Security Council not later than the end of May 1992. Meanwhile, the Secretary-General recommended that the current level of MINURSO activity be maintained for the above-mentioned period and that the mandate of the military elements of MINURSO continue to be restricted to verifying the cease-fire and cessation of hostilities in the areas defined in September 1991.

9. In a letter dated 23 March 1992 addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General informed him that after extensive consultations with the parties concerned, he had decided to appoint Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, as his Special Representative for Western Sahara to replace Mr. Johannes J. Manz, who had resigned in December 1991. 4/

10. In his reply to the Secretary-General dated 25 March 1992, 5/ the President of the Security Council informed him that the members of the Council welcomed that appointment. The members of the Council had also taken note of his report of 28 February 1992 on MINURSO 3/ and reiterated the Council's

support for his efforts and the efforts to be made by the Special Representative to accelerate the implementation of the settlement plan for a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

11. On 29 May 1992, the Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council a further report on the situation concerning Western Sahara. 6/ With regard to military aspects, the Secretary-General informed the Council that in its existing limited deployment, the role of the MINURSO military unit was essentially limited to monitoring and verifying the cease-fire into which the parties had entered. On other aspects, the Secretary-General reported that the Special Representative had made a tour of the mission area, including the neighbouring countries, Algeria and Mauritania, from 19 to 30 April 1992. On the basis of his initial contacts with the parties, the Special Representative had concluded that their respective positions remained far apart and that those differences continued to present serious obstacles to the implementation of the settlement plan. At the same time, he was encouraged to find that both parties continued to be committed to the plan as a framework for a just and permanent solution to the Western Sahara conflict. Additionally, both Algeria and Mauritania had promised him their full support and cooperation in order to overcome existing obstacles and to facilitate the execution of the plan. In the light of his findings, at the conclusion of the tour, the Special Representative explored with each of the parties their readiness to hold talks with him in an effort to reactivate the plan. Both parties had agreed to do so. The talks were under way at that time and were being held within the framework of the settlement plan.

12. In the light of the foregoing and bearing in mind the critical role MINURSO observers were playing for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity pending the settlement of the conflict, the Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of MINURSO for a further period of three months, until the end of August 1992. He hoped that by then substantial progress would have been made to prepare the ground for the holding of a referendum leading to the peaceful settlement of the conflict. However, if by that time the peace process remained deadlocked notwithstanding the efforts of the Special Representative the Security Council might wish to consider a different approach.

13. In a letter dated 3 June 1992 addressed to the Secretary-General, 7/ the President of the Security Council informed him that the members of the Council welcomed the fact that the two parties had agreed to engage in discussions with the Special Representative, with a view to reactivating the settlement plan. They also reaffirmed their support for the efforts which the Secretary-General and his Special Representative were making in that connection. The members of the Council shared the Secretary-General's views on the necessity of maintaining in place the MINURSO personnel currently deployed in Western Sahara in order to monitor the cease-fire.

14. At the twenty-eighth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, at Dakar on 29 June 1992, the Secretary-General made a statement in which, inter alia, he informed the Assembly on the current

efforts to reactivate the settlement plan. The Secretary-General also held consultations with Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of OAU.

15. On 10 July 1992, the Secretary-General issued a statement 8/ in which he announced that each party to the Western Sahara conflict had agreed to hold talks with the Special Representative, in an effort to reactivate the settlement plan which had been deadlocked for several months. The first round of the talks, which involved consultations with the parties in Geneva, Rabat, Tindouf and New York, had concluded on 2 July. The Secretary-General had agreed that the talks would continue over the coming weeks, in the hope that it would be possible to achieve concrete progress towards eliminating the obstacles standing in the way of holding a referendum under United Nations auspices to determine the future status of Western Sahara. The Secretary-General expected that both parties would continue to cooperate fully with the Special Representative in his efforts to reactivate the process leading towards the referendum in the Territory and that, in that spirit, they would refrain from any action which might adversely affect the progress of those efforts.

16. The Secretary-General submitted to the Security Council a further progress report on the situation on 20 August 1992, 9/ as requested by the President of the Council in his letter to the Secretary-General of 3 June 1992. 7/ The Secretary-General reported that the above-mentioned talks focused on the formulation of safeguards to protect the political, economic, social and other rights and liberties of the losing side in the referendum, whatever the outcome. The talks were expected to create a climate of mutual trust and confidence in which obstacles to the holding of the referendum, i.e. in the first instance, the criteria for eligibility to vote in the referendum, could be overcome. Whereas such an agreement remained to be negotiated, the talks did achieve their principal purpose in the sense that both parties then stood ready to engage in a new round of talks with the Special Representative, this time devoted to the interpretation of the criteria for eligibility to vote annexed to the Secretary-General's report of 19 December 1991. 1/ Those criteria had been immediately accepted by Morocco, notwithstanding its reservations concerning some provisions which it found to be unnecessarily restrictive. However, the Frente POLISARIO had rejected those criteria on the grounds that they would unduly enlarge the electoral body beyond those voters included in the census of 1974. Nevertheless, the Frente POLISARIO had gradually reassessed its position in the light of the efforts being undertaken by the Special Representative to relaunch the settlement plan. Without prejudice to its position on the criteria, the Frente POLISARIO agreed to support the efforts of the Special Representative aimed at ensuring that both parties arrive at the same interpretation of all criteria.

17. The Secretary-General further indicated that recently it had been reported that the Government of Morocco was planning to hold municipal and legislative elections, as well as a plebiscite on constitutional reform in the coming months; and that the inhabitants of Western Sahara would be eligible to vote therein. In light of those reports, the Secretary-General had asked his Special Representative to seek clarification from the Government of Morocco

and, subject to confirmation of those plans, to explore the possibility of a postponement until after the holding of a United Nations referendum. The Special Representative was informed, during his visit to Rabat in early August 1992, that, should elections be held, Morocco expressed readiness to give a written commitment to the Secretary-General in a formal letter from the Foreign Minister to the effect that those elections were quite independent of and separate from the holding of a referendum under the United Nations plan and that Morocco solemnly reaffirmed its commitment to abide by the results of the United Nations referendum. Morocco subsequently reaffirmed its commitment in a letter dated 21 August 1992, addressed to the Secretary-General by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, 10/ regarding the coming local and national elections.

18. On the military aspects, the Secretary-General indicated in the same report 9/ that two military observers on patrol in the extreme north-east of the Territory had sustained injuries when their vehicle was blown up by an anti-tank mine. That unfortunate incident underlined the serious hazards posed by mines in many parts of the Territory. It had been indicated to MINURSO that in many instances minefields were not properly charted, which would explain occasional casualties on both sides due to mine explosions. The Secretary-General recalled, however, that both parties were obliged to provide MINURSO with the best available and most up-to-date information on the location of minefields, so that MINURSO could enjoy the fullest possible freedom of movement in secure conditions in the Territory, in conformity with the settlement plan. To that effect, the Secretary-General urged both parties to ensure that all available information of that nature was transmitted to MINURSO.

19. In his reply to the Secretary-General dated 31 August 1992, 11/ the President of the Security Council stated that the members of the Council shared the Secretary-General's views on the necessity of the parties scrupulously abiding by the cease-fire and abstaining from any provocative behaviour endangering the settlement plan. They also expressed the hope that both parties would extend their full cooperation to the Secretary-General and the Special Representative in their efforts to achieve speedy progress in the implementation of the plan. The members of the Council also strongly urged the parties themselves to make extraordinary efforts to ensure the success of the plan.

20. In a statement before the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries at Jakarta on 1 September 1992, the Secretary-General indicated that his Special Representative was seeking to reconcile differences regarding participation in the referendum of the people of Western Sahara in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolution. The Secretary-General also held consultations with Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal and current Chairman of OAU.

21. The Secretary-General informed the President of the Security Council on 16 September 1992 12/ that the tour of duty of Brigadier General Luis Block Urban (Peru), who had been serving as Acting Force Commander of

MINURSO since 24 April 1992, would come to an end on 30 September 1992. The Secretary-General proposed to appoint Colonel André Van Baelen of Belgium as Acting Force Commander of MINURSO, with effect from 1 October 1992. The President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General on 21 September 1992 that the members of the Council agreed to his proposal. 13/

22. The Secretary-General and his Special Representative have maintained close contact with the Chairman of OAU on developments relating to the question of Western Sahara. The Secretary-General has also remained in regular contact with the two parties and government officials of the neighbouring countries either personally or through his senior aides in order to expedite the implementation of Security Council resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991.

23. The Secretary-General met with the current Chairman of OAU in New York on 30 September 1992. During the meeting, they exchanged views on various important international questions of concern to OAU and the United Nations, including the question of Western Sahara.

OBSERVATIONS

24. In accordance with the provisions of Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations and with the consent of the Security Council, the Secretary-General notified the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session of matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security that were being dealt with by the Security Council and of matters with which the Council had ceased to deal (A/47/436). Included among the matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security that had been discussed by the Security Council during the period since the notification to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session was "The situation concerning Western Sahara".

25. As is evident from the present report, the Security Council currently continues to exercise in respect of the situation concerning Western Sahara functions assigned to it in the Charter of the United Nations.

26. In a letter dated 2 October 1992 addressed to the President of the Security Council, 14/ the Secretary-General indicated his intention to submit within the next eight weeks a full report to the Council on his Special Representative's current efforts to reactivate the implementation of the settlement plan. Meanwhile, he proposed to maintain the existing deployment and staffing of MINURSO.

Notes

1/ S/23299.

2/ S/22464 and Corr.1.

Notes (continued)

3/ S/23662.

4/ S/23754.

5/ S/23755.

6/ S/24040.

7/ S/24059.

8/ United Nations press release SG/SM/4781.

9/ S/24464.

10/ S/24484, annex.

11/ S/24504.

12/ S/24579.

13/ S/24580.

14/ S/24644.